

this family in North America already outnumber all the known exotic species. A remarkable new genus *Zodiomyces*, is described, and forms a distinct departure in the group. *Hesperomyces* is another new genus; while *Peyritsiella* receives a new species, and *Laboulbenia* six.

WE HAVE RECEIVED the advance sheets and plate proofs of Ellis & Everhart's North American Pyrenomycetes. The illustrations are all original, the drawing having been the work of Mr. F. W. Anderson. There are 41 plates, each one accompanied by a page of explanatory text. We understand that 4 more plates will be issued as a supplement. In looking over the plates it is evident that the volume will be a boon to American mycologists, and that this large and rapidly increasing group of botanists will warmly welcome its appearance.

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## OPEN LETTERS.

### Mounting plants.

THOSE WHO have had experience in mounting plants for the herbarium will readily understand why Prof. Beal should "decidedly favor" fastening down grasses with gummed strips, for of all things grasses are the most refractory subjects to glue down, and unless the work is expertly done and the stout culms immediately stayed by strips (without waiting for these to "spring up" before being "patched up,") there is likely to be displayed all the defects and drawbacks which our friend specifies. But it has occurred to me that notwithstanding Prof. Beal expressly restricts his remarks to the "mounting of grasses and allied plants" there might be some who would construe them into a qualified condemnation of the glue process from beginning to end. This, I take it, was not intended. Excepting the grasses there is not another large order of plants which the writer, for one, would not much prefer glued down; the Compositæ, Leguminosæ, Rosaceæ, Umbelliferæ and even the Cyperaceæ. A delicate Astragalus or Vicia can be neatly and expeditiously mounted so that every flower and leaflet in contact with the sheet will be securely fastened and that, too, without showing a particle of "surplus glue" to mar the perfection of the work; the same may be said of all the Umbelliferæ, but more especially of those with finely dissected leaves; while as for the Compositæ they are so easily glued down, held so firmly, look so well after the work is done, are so convenient to handle and easy to study, I can not conceive of two opinions being entertained as to the preferable mode of mounting them. Were the objection that specimens "not mounted right side out" can not be turned over, really as formidable as it appears in the statement it would have long ago led to the abandonment of gluing down. As a matter of fact I do not recall, in thirty years' experience, having ever been balked by a specimen mounted wrong-side up. Nor does gluing prevent the detachment of small fragments for more careful examination with the aid of those capital help-



ers the cup of hot water and low power microscope. It is a poor and meager specimen, indeed, from which such little bits as are required for this purpose can not be taken without injury, but even this will be obviated when collectors learn to preserve surplus flowers, fruits, etc., for subsequent dissection.

Much has been said, one time and another, about the convenience of loose material for study, with the implication that mounted material was inconvenient just in proportion to the security of the attachment to the herbarium sheet. For my own part I avoid, as much as possible, handling loose specimens, and *for study* prefer things securely mounted. My mind is then relieved of any undercurrent of care lest labels or specimens get misplaced, I find open spaces left on the sheet for any sketches or analyses that I may care to make, and the identical fragment had under examination can be placed in a pocket alongside to attest the accuracy of the drawing. Notes can be written down and all this will remain while the sheet lasts as certainly appertaining to the very specimen made the subject of study. I can go so far as to mark with a little  $\times$  the precise spot in head, spike, ament or what not, from which I detached my fragment for examination. For effecting such detachments with a minimum of injury to the specimen I use a tool painfully suggestive of a dentist's outfit, but really of more agreeable antecedents, a fine little chisel made by breaking off the hook of a steel crochet needle and then sharpening the end to a crosswise edge. The long handle gives a firm hold, the cutting edge is very narrow and with a steady thrust, under a lens, one may cut just the part desired without bringing away, unintentionally, ten times more than is wanted.  
— M. S. BEBB, *Rockford, Ills.*

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## NOTES AND NEWS.

REV. FRANCIS WOLLE'S "Diatomaceæ of North America" has just been issued. It contains 2300 figures and 112 plates.

IN THE *Public Ledger* (Feb. 19) of Philadelphia Mr. Thos. Meehan has published a long and interesting account of Rafinesque.

IN THE article of Dr. Homer Bowers on *Hydrastis Canadensis*, which appeared in the March number, the following corrections should be made: p. 76, 9th line from bottom, "inclines" should read "inclined"; p. 77, last line, erase "not." This last is naturally a very important correction.

UNDER LEAVE of absence from the University of Wisconsin Prof. Chas. R. Barnes will spend the time from April to September at Cambridge as assistant in the Gray Herbarium. It is the intention of the director, Dr. Sereno Watson, to have the important bryological collections rendered available to students as soon as possible. The initiation of this work together with the revision of the Field, Forest and Garden botany which is in progress, will occupy Prof. Barnes' time. Correspondents will please note the change of address.